

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 2, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING MARCH 2, 1978:

Q: CAN YOU UPDATE US ON CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA? HAS
THE FIGURE GONE UP ANY?

A: I THINK THE BASIC THING HERE IS, HENRY, THAT THE
FIGURE OF AROUND 11,000 REMAINS THE OPERATIVE FIGURE.
THERE IS, AS I HAVE BEEN SAYING, A CONTINUED ADDITION.
THAT CAN REACH AS HIGH AS A COUPLE OF HUNDRED A DAY.
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SO WHEN WE HAD THAT RANGE FIGURE BEFORE -- IT WENT SOME-
WHERE BETWEEN EIGHT TO TEN TO ELEVEN -- I AM STILL IN THIS
11,000 RANGE, BUT I WOULD JUST SAY IT IS GOING UP BY AS
MANY AS 200 A DAY.

Q: HODDING, HAS THE DEPARTMENT TRIED TO USE ANY LEVERAGE

IN TERMS OF OVERFLIGHTS, THAT IS, COMPLAINING TO COUNTRIES THAT ARE BEING OVERFLOWN BY THE SOVIET-CUBAN FLIGHTS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR SUCH FLIGHTS.

A: LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: IS IT STILL THE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ETHIOPIAN TROOPS AND THE CUBANS, THE RUSSIANS, ETC. WILL NOT GO INTO SOMALIA?

A: YES.

Q: HODDING, HOW ARE THESE ADDITIONAL CUBANS GETTING IN THERE? ARE THEY BEING FLOWN DIRECTLY FROM CUBA OR ANGOLA?

A: I THINK I HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT I AM NOT REALLY GOING TO SPECIFY THE WAYS THEY ARE COMING.

Q: IS IT GENERALLY BY AIR OR ARE THEY BEING LANDED BY SEA?

A: I HAVE GIVEN YOU SOME ASSISTANCE ON THAT.

Q: WHAT WAS THAT?

A: I SAID THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS 200 A DAY.
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Q: I JUST WANT TO ASK THE QUESTION AGAIN TODAY. IS THERE ANY REASSESSMENT TODAY OF OUR ARMS POLICY OR OUR ARMS EMBARGO?

A: I HAVE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION AGAIN. I KNOW OF NO REASSESSMENT OF THAT EMBARGO --

Q: HODDING, CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE TALKS WITH THE KENYAN DELEGATION YESTERDAY?

A: NO. I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE A READ OUT ON THAT.

THEY WERE ALSO SCHEDULED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE, THIS MORNING.

AS I PROMISED YOU BEFORE, I HOPE I WILL HAVE SOMETHING WHICH IS MORE THAN I GAVE YOU YESTERDAY AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR SESSIONS HERE. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.

Q: IF THERE IS A SALT AGREEMENT THIS YEAR AND THERE STILL ARE SOVIET TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA, WILL THE ADMINISTRA-

TION SEEK RATIFICATION OF THE SALT AGREEMENT?

A: THERE IS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO. A SALT AGREEMENT IS NOT LINKED AND THE SALT TREATIES SUBMISSION, ASSUMING THAT WE GET ONE AND WE CONTINUE TO ASSUME THAT WE WILL, IS NOT LINKED TO THE PRESENCE OF THOSE TROOPS.

ACTUALLY ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE I SAID, I SAID THAT FIVE TIMES YESTERDAY AND I DO WANT TO REPEAT IT.
CHRISTOPHER

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